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82 SAN SALVADOR 2230

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02230 182158Z
ACTION ARA-15
INFO OCT-00 AID-00 AIT-07 INR-12 SS-10 CIC-02 CIAE-00
H-01 IO-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-05 SA-05 L-03
TRSE-00 PM-00 PA-02 MCT-02 ACDA-12 ICAE-00 SP-00
SPRS-00 /125 W
----------341353 170227 /57

R 181951Z MAR 82
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8524
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PAN//INTAFF
UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 2230
E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WEEK IN REVIEW -- MARCH 6-12

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY FS DATE 10/20/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. SUMMARY: VIOLENCE IN EL SALVADOR CLAIMED APPROXIMATELY 60 MORE VICTIMS LAST WEEK. IN ADDITION, ONE DISAPPEARANCE OF A FURTHER EIGHT PERSONS WAS REPORTED. INCOMPLETE REPORTS TOLL OF THE DEATHS OF SOME SIX SOLDIERS AND 54 GUERRILLAS. CONFRONTATIONS WITH GUERRILLAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITH A CONCENTRATION IN SAN VICENTE AND SAN MIGUEL. GUERRILLAS CONTINUED THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BUS SYSTEM, TORCHING EIGHT MORE VEHICLES, AND MEMBERS OF THE FPL THREATENED THE RESIDENTS OF ONE TOWN IN LA LIBERTAD WITH DEATH IF THEY VOTED IN THE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02230 182158Z

2. DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES: AN APPROXIMATELY TOTAL OF 60 PERSONS FELL VICTIM TO POLITICAL VIOLENCE LAST WEEK. GUERRILLA FORCES WERE JUDGED BY THE PRESS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR 17 OF THESE MURDERS. THE REMAINING 43 VICTIMS MET DEATH AT THE HANDS OF UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS FOR UNKNOWN REASONS. IN ADDITION, A TOTAL OF EIGHT PERSONS REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED DURING THE WEEK. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE DISAPPEARANCES COULD NOT BE FIXED. FINALLY, INCOMPLETE AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS IN THE PRESS INDICATED THAT ABOUT SIX SOLDIERS AND 54 TERRORISTS DIED IN THE ONGOING FIGHTING.

3. SOME STATISTICS: THE BODIES OF THE 60 VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE WERE DISCOVERED IN THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS.

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SAN SALVADOR (DEPARTMENT)	7	CUSCATLAN	1
SAN SALVADOR 'CITY)	7	SAN MIGUEL	13
SANTA ANA	16	SAN VICENTE	1
LA LIBERTAD	9	LA UNION	1
USULUTAN	4	CHALATENANGO	1
		TOTAL	60

AN AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE DEAD YIELDS THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS:

A. AGES 17 AND UNDER	4
B. AGES 18-25	10
C. AGES 26-35	9
D. AGES 36-50	11
E. AGES 51 AND OVER	2
F. UNKNOWN	24
TOTAL	60

A BREAKDOWN BY OCCUPATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING

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INFORMATION:

MASON	1	CIVIL DEFENSEMEN	1
LABORER	2	FARMER	1
EMPLOYEE	2	ICE CREAM DEALER	1
DRIVER	3	UNKNOWN	47
MERCHANTS	2	TOTAL	60

4. INCIDENTS: GUERRILLA FORCES MAINTAINED A FULL RANGE OF ACTIVITIES LAST WEEK WITH A NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTS REPORTED IN SAN VICENTE AND SAN MIGUEL DEPARTMENTS. OTHER NOTABLE GUERRILLA ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDED THE BURNING OF EIGHT BUSES AND A GASOLINE STATION IN THE CAPITAL, THE TORCHING OF A SUGAR PROCESSING PLANT NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR. AND AN ATTEMPT TO BURN DOWN THE CENTRAL MARKET OF SANTA ANA. IN ADDITION, FURTHER ATTACKS WERE MADE ON THE ELECTRICAL POWER GRID, AGAIN PLUNGING THE CITY OF SAN MIGUEL INTO DARKNESS.

5. THREATS AGAINST THE ELCTIONS: APART FROM THE CONTINUING OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE COUNTRY'S BUS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, THE PRESS REPORTED FURTHER THREATS AGAINST POTENTIAL VOTERS BY THE FPL. A GROUP OF TERRORISTS ENTERED THE TOWN OF SAN NICOLAS INCARNACION, LA LIBERTAD, IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE FPL, AND THREATENED TO KILL ANY RESIDENT WHO LEFT THE TOWN TO CAST A BALLOT ON ELECTION DAY.

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